



SN 09/049,695

Page 1

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: P. A. Billing-Medel, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/049,695

Filed: March 27, 1998

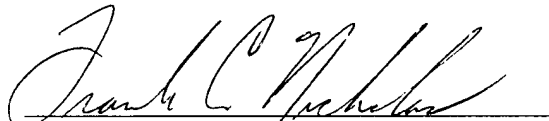
For: REAGENTS AND METHODS USEFUL
FOR DETECTING DISEASES OF THE
GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

Examiner: K. Canella

Group Art Unit: 1642

Attorney Docket No.: 6066.US.P1

Date: August 1, 2001

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8-23-01**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Box CPA
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action dated November 22, 2000 and to the Advisory Action dated May 21, 2001 in the parent application. A Notice of Appeal was filed on February 20, 2001. Claims 1-3 were currently under examination in the parent application. A response was originally filed on May 20, 2001 with a one-month extension of time.

A request for a Continuation Prosecution Application accompanies this Amendment. A further three-month extension of time accompanies this Amendment, extending the time to respond from April 20, 2001 to August 20, 2001 in the parent application so that the parent application and this CPA are co-pending.